Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A recording method of recording data to an information recording medium, the information recording medium having a recording area for storing data and stored data which is managed by a file system, wherein

the recording area of the information recording medium is managed in block units, and each block includes a specified number of clusters as units for storing data for the file system, and

the data recording method comprises, when necessary to record data in a new free area,

searching for a block which has a specified threshold number or more of unused clusters,

managing the searched block by units of blocks,

searching for a valid block from the managed blocks at data processing, and

writing the data in the searched valid block prior to the other block.

2. (Original) The recording method according to claim 1, wherein when necessary to record data to a new free area, the data are written in unused clusters in a valid block which has been searched.

3. (Original) The recording method according to claim 2, further comprising

counting the unused clusters contained in each block in the recording area,

determining the valid block on the basis of the counting result,

generating and holding a valid free area list which is list information related to the valid block, and

searching for the valid block by referring to the valid free area list at data recording process.

4. (Currently Amended) The recording method according to claim 1, wherein information about the threshold is acquired from stored in the information recording medium.

5. (Original) The recording method according to claim 1, wherein the threshold is a value of 1/2 or more of the number of clusters included in one block.

6. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus for writing or reading data to or from an information recording medium, wherein

a recording area of the information recording medium is managed in block units, and each block includes a specified number of clusters, the cluster is unit for storing data for a file system,

the data processing apparatus comprises:

an I/O processing section that processes input and output of information for the information recording medium;

a file system controller that manages data stored in the information recording medium, as a file;

a data processor that controls writing and reading of data to and from the information recording medium; and

a valid free area manager that ~~holds~~ manages, by units of blocks, information for a block containing a specified threshold number or more of unused clusters in an area of the information recording medium, and

when necessary to record data to a new free area, the data processor, as a control, searches for a valid block from managed blocks ~~containing a specified threshold number or more of unused clusters~~ with reference to the information held in the valid free area manager, and writes data to the searched valid block prior to the other block.

7. (Original) The data processing apparatus of claim 6, wherein the valid free area manager holds a valid free area list which is list information related to a valid block which is a block including a specific number or more of unused clusters.

8. (Currently Amended) The data processing apparatus of claim 6, wherein information about the threshold is acquired from stored-in the information recording medium.

9. (Original) The data processing apparatus of claim 6, wherein the threshold is a value of 1/2 or more of the number of clusters included in one block.

10. (New) A data re-arrangement method in a recording area of an information recording medium having a recording area for storing data and stored data which is managed by a file system, wherein

the recording area of the information recording medium is managed in block units, and each block includes a specified number of clusters as unit for storing data for file system,

the method comprises:

judging whether the number of unused clusters contained in the block is within a specified range, for each block of the information recording medium; and

moving data to unused clusters contained in the block

having the number of unused clusters which is within the specified range,

from used clusters in other block.

11. (New) The recording method according to claim 10, wherein the

specified range is 1 or more and less than 1/2 of the number of clusters

included in one block.

12. (New) The data re-arrangement method according to claim 10,

wherein, in case that stored data in the information recording medium is

managed by FAT file system and the FAT file system has first and second

FAT tables as link information, and when a valid FAT flag showing which

one of the first and second FAT tables is valid is provided,

the re-arrangement method further includes, after moving the

data:

writing the second FAT table to the information recording

medium;

setting the valid FAT flag to show that the second FAT table is

valid;

copying the content of the second FAT table to the first FAT

table in the information recording medium; and

setting the valid FAT flag to show that the first FAT table is valid.

13. (New) A data processing apparatus for writing or reading data to or from an information recording medium, comprising:

an I/O processing section that processes input and output of information for the information recording medium;

a file system controller that manages the data stored in the information recording medium, as a file;

a data processor that controls writing and reading of data to and from the information recording medium; and

a block judging section that classifies each block in the information recording medium according to the number of unused clusters contained in each block and holds information about the classification,

wherein as a control, the data processor, with reference to the classification information held in the block judging section, judges for each block whether the number of unused clusters contained in a block is within a specified range or not, and when the block has unused clusters within the specified range, moves data to unused clusters contained in the block from used clusters of other block.